

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 17521 262119Z
ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 17521

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CCY PARA 2 LINE 6)

.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: APOU, PINT, SOPN, UR
SUBJECT: MFA COMPLAINT ON CORRESPONDENT'S USE OF POUCH
REF: (A) MOSCOW 14999, (B) MOSCOW 13510

1. DURING FAREWELL CALL BY EMBASSY'S OUTGOING PRESS
ATTACHE ON MFA PRESS DIVISION "KOLLEKTIV", ZHURAVLEV
INTERRUPTED GENERAL PLEASANTNESS FOR A MOMENT TO
RAISE AGAIN MATTER OF NEW YORK TIMES BUREAU CHIEF
SHIPLER AND HIS ALLEGED MISUSE OF EMBASSY POUCH
PRIVILEGES (REFTELS).

2. RECALLING SOVIET DEMARCH REPORTED REF A, ZHURAVLEV
NOTED THAT SOVIET SIDE HAD INFORMED EMBASSY OF NATURE
AND CONTENTS OF PACKET ADDRESSED TO SHIPLER WHICH
WAS BEING HELD IN 17TH DISTRICT MILITSIA STATION "IN
CONNECTION WITH AN INVESTIGATION." ZHURAVLEV SAID
THAT INVESTIGATION WAS NOW "COMPLETED" AND THEREFORE
MATERIALS WERE NO LONGER NEEDED BY SOVIETS. HE PRO-
DUCED WHITE LEGAL-SIZED ENVELOPE AND HANDED IT TO
PRESS ATTACHE WITH COMMENT THAT HE WAS TURNING
MATERIALS OVER TO EMBASSY AND HOPED THAT EMBASSY
WOULD MAKE SURE THAT POUCH WAS USED "ACCORDING TO
ACCEPTED DIPLOMATIC NORMS". PRESS ATTACHE RESPONDED
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ALONG GENERAL LINES REF A.

3. CONTENTS OF PACKET (ADDRESSED TO SHIPLER WITH
TIMES RETURN ADDRESS AND POSTMARKED FEBRUARY 21,
1978, IN NEW YORK) WERE EXACTLY AS MAINTAINED BY
SOVIETS IN REF A. "NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS IN A FOREIGN
LANGUAGE" WERE ARTICLE FROM ITALIAN CORRIERE DELLA

SERA ON BUKHARIN. "LETTER TO LARIN" ADDRESSED "TO BORA FROM STEVE" AND "LETTER IN ENGLISH" ADDRESSED "TO INGE FROM LYNN".

4. COMMENT: DURING SOVIET DEMARCH JUNE 28, KRYLOV HAD SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT PACKET WAS BEING RETAINED BY MILITSIA AND COULD NOT RPT NOT BE SHOWN TO EMBASSY BECAUSE OF ITS ANTI-SOVIET NATURE. THUS, ZHURAVLEV'S HAND-OVER COMES AS A SURPRISE. WHATEVER "INVESTIGATION" WAS BEING CONDUCTED BY MILITSIA SEEMS NOT TO HAVE LED TO ANY DECISION TO PROSECUTE SHIPLER OR SOVIETS PRESUMABLY WOULD NOT HAVE DIVESTED THEMSELVES OF NECESSARY EVIDENCE. WE ARE INFORMING SHIPLER OF THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT BUT WILL RETAIN PACKET HERE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. SINCE HE HAS DISCLAIMED ALL KNOWLEDGE OF OR INTEREST IN CONTENTS, HE SHOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THIS COURSE OF ACTION. TOON

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Message Attributes

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